

NICE REVELATIONS

Of the Manner in Which Jobs Get Through Congress.

HOLLAND SUBMARINE BOATS.

Treasurer Frost Spends \$200,000 and Buys Up the Riff-raff Correspondents From One to Five Hundred Dollars Each—His Offices, Yacht, Champagne Bills and Moonlight Rides for Statesmen—A Posted Correspondent Reveals Startling Facts.

"Do you see those two gentlemen talking together?" said a well-known newspaper correspondent to the GLOBE scribe on Tuesday last at the New Willard hotel, indicating two distinguished looking gentlemen who were in close conference and apparently oblivious to all around them.

"Now," continued the correspondent without waiting for the GLOBE man's reply, "that's General Meyer, of Louisiana, sitting nearest, and the other is Treasurer Frost of the Holland Submarine Boat Company."

"And what connection do you make between the gentlemen," said the GLOBE scribe. "Oh nothing in particular," answered the correspondent, "but you are aware that the House refused to adopt the Senate amendments to the naval appropriation bill calling for five submarine boats and a committee of conference of either house has been appointed to-day, of which General Meyer is a member from the House side."

"Still we do not see the connection," "Oh well there is no connection any more than this, that Treasurer Frost has been here for months renting rooms in the Corcoran Building; has typewriters, stenographers and a full force of clerks, suite of rooms, and has been on alternate days giving luxurious excursions down the Potomac to Senators and members, dining and winning them, and all with the single end in view for Treasurer Frost to secure an appropriation of eight hundred thousand dollars for five Holland submarine boats."

"Well, isn't that legitimate?" "Legitimate enough, maybe. It depends on the point of view from which you see it. The Senate evidently sees it as you have, but the House rejected it and hence the committee of conference of which General Meyer is a member."

"See nothing and hear nothing on the Rialto if you want the good will of the newspaper correspondents," remarked our wise informant.

"Why, how is that?"

"Well, I happened to be in Treasurer Frost's office when he was going over a list of Congressmen who would vote for his bill, those who would not vote for it, some who were doubtful, and so on when a good friend of the GLOBE scribe came in. The subject of discussion turned upon the influence of newspapers and the necessity to get in some work along that line, and Treasurer Frost asked what about the SUNDAY GLOBE. Oh, said your good friend, the GLOBE is a scurrilous sheet. It has no influence whatever with Congress and cannot do you any good. Any money you give it would be thrown away, even if they would accept it. Now after this good friend of the GLOBE had left I entered into a general conversation with Mr. Frost along the line of his inquiries touching the influence of newspaper men when he astounded me by the assertion that he had paid from five hundred dollars to the big eagle to one hundred dollars to the small "sparrow" along the Rialto for their influence as newspaper correspondents or as assistants of Congressmen on moonlight excursions on the river or occasional trips into "the Division" or to the large club houses along E street after dark."

"I pointed out to Mr. Frost how worse than wasted his money was on newspaper correspondents who are prohibited by their papers from publishing matter tending to advance the interests of jobs before Congress, and that so far as the GLOBE was concerned I knew its editor to be the friend of many Senators and many Members of the House, none of whom he would approach in the character of a lobbyist for any project involving appropriations from the National Treasury; that the rag-tag and bob-tail correspondents of the Rialto cordially hated him, for many reasons, among others his originality and superiority as a writer, his courageous course in exposing wrong doing and his frank contempt for such hirelings as they are."

"You must not understand, Mr. GLOBE, that I was working Mr. Frost. I was simply the friend and confidant of the Painton Electric Company and of the inventor who is here present and without money or influence other than the meritorious character of his invention in the application of electricity as a motive power. He is a fellow countryman of mine, an Englishman, and a personal friend. I was on a friendly call with some friends who had reference to his attorneys for infringements on the Painton patents by the company represented by Mr. Frost, when the subject came up of subsidizing the Rialto of the newspaper correspondents of the Rialto."

"But I would have you understand Mr. GLOBE, that the higher and better known correspondents are incorruptible and neither Frost nor anybody else could induce them to violate their honor or their obligations to the papers they represent."

"Did Mr. Frost state the amount of money he had expended or did he give the names of the statesmen whom he had purchased?"

"Well, Mr. Frost is a free and easy talker as well as a free and easy spender of money. In the beginning he paid out money liberally to any body and every body but recently he has got his eye teeth cut and he is more careful and economical. For instance, while he stated that his expenditures had reached a couple of hundred thousand dollars since he came to Washington, and he was not yet certain of the action of the House on the matter, he would rather fight for the bill on the floor of the House and let it take its chances than to pay the amount necessary to secure a favorable report from the naval committee of the House."

"Why, this is a serious statement, Mr. Correspondent. Doesn't it call for an investigation?"

"I am aware of the gravity of this condition of affairs, but this is nothing to certain other statements that have been made and which I believe to be true, as to what has been done in subsidizing newspaper correspondents and others supposed to have influence in advancing the interest of naval bills before Congress. You must understand, Mr. GLOBE, that when a man is compelled to open office in the Corcoran building, keep a yacht at the wharf well-stocked with champagne and other refreshments, give moonlight and daylight excursions to

members of the House and Senate, and buy up correspondents from the eagle to the "sparrow," it takes an enormous sum of money which it is expected will be paid back by the national treasury in the shape of an appropriation for the building of boats that experts say can be built for the sum of seventy-five thousand dollars each, leaving a good margin of profit on that sum and yet Congress appropriates eight hundred thousand dollars for the construction of the said boats."

"Now you can draw your own conclusions."

"Well, a committee of investigation by Congress would seem to be in order in this case."

"Oh! bother your committee of investigation! What would that amount to? Some additional expense upon the taxpayers and, notwithstanding the testimony would prove overwhelmingly, all I have stated to you and a great deal more, a white wash would be the result."

"This is a sad state of affairs," said the GLOBE scribe.

"Oh, no, cheer up old man; the nation is rich and the Treasury is surfeiting with money. Why should not the Holland Company have some of it when they are such generous distributors, especially when the

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"Of course I feel a little grieved that my friend Painton has nothing but the merit of his invention and was unable to furnish a yacht and other delights for the Congressmen or to deal out the 'long green' to the correspondents who deal in that sort of thing, but I am not unreasonable and I recognize that the man with the pull and the 'long green' to push it is bound to win out in ninety-nine and a half times in a hundred."

Our cynical friend with this closed the interview and trotted down the steps of the Willard while the GLOBE man stood simply paralyzed, gazing mechanically at General Meyer and Mr. Frost as they continued their earnest conference for quite a long period, after the correspondent who had directed our attention to them had departed and left us a sadder but a wiser man.

"The Busy Corner."

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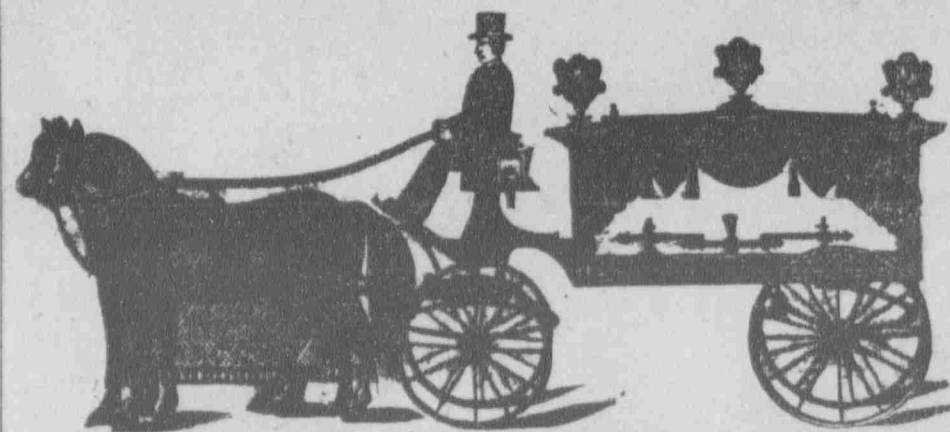
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